

Note on *Plectroplites* and *Hypoplectrodes*, *Genera of Serranoid Fishes*. By THEODORE GILL, LL.D.

Mr. Boulenger, in the first volume of his excellent 'Catalogue of the Perciform Fishes,' has accepted two later names for genera on account of imperfect data respecting earlier ones: these are *Ctenolates* instead of *Plectroplites* and *Gilbertia* in place of *Hypoplectrodes*. It is not surprising, for the author himself had even forgotten one—*Hypoplectrodes*.

I.

The name *Ctenolates* of Günther (1871) was adopted by Mr. Boulenger, and as a synonym was noted "*Plectroplites*, Gill, Proc. Ac. Philad. 1862, p. 236 (no definition); Bleek. Arch. Néerl. xi. 1876, p. 267."

It is true that at the place cited by Mr. Boulenger "no definition" was given, but one was supplied later in the following terms:—

"The *Datnia? ambigua* of Richardson, which has been referred by Günther to the genus *Dules*, differs from *Moronopsis** by the shorter convex anal fin, the large second anal spine, the small eyes, and the entire physiognomy. It may be called *Plectroplites ambiguus*."

The characters thus positively given and contrasted with those of *Kuhlia* or *Moronopsis* are sufficient to differentiate and define the genus, although the author, like Günther and all others, was unaware of the trenchant anatomical characters further differentiating the genus from *Kuhlia*. The synonymy of the genus should be amended as follows:—

GENUS PLECTROPLITES.

Plectroplites, Gill, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1862, p. 236 (with typonym only), 1863, p. 286 (defined).

Ctenolates, Günther, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1871, p. 320.

Datnia? sp., Richardson.

Dules, sp., Günther (1859) et al.

The *P. ambiguus* is still the only species known.

II.

The name *Gilbertia* of Jordan and Eigenmann was adopted by Mr. Boulenger † in place of *Hypoplectrodes*, because the latter was supposed to have "no definition." On the page referred to by Mr. Boulenger, indeed, no definition was given; but later (in 1871) Professor Poey, to whom I had indicated the characters in response

* *Moronopsis* had been previously named by Gill *Kullia*, and the latter name has been adopted by Jordan and Boulenger.

† Vol. i. p. 306.

to an inquiry for them, gave them in a memoir entitled "Genres des Poissons de la Faune de Cuba appartenant à la Famille Percidæ, avec une Note d'introduction par J. Carson Brevoort"*. Prof. Poey's diagnosis was as follows:—

"Le genre *Hypoplectrodes* a été proposé par Mr. Gill, Proc. Acad. Phil. 1862, p. 236, pour le *Pl. nigro-rubrum*, C. et V. Il est plus allongé que le *Pl. serratum*; les dentelures du bord montant du préopercule sont plus fines; il n'y a au bord inférieur que deux pointes dirigées en avant, dont l'une à l'angle. D. 10, 17; A. 3, 8."

I have to confess that I myself had forgotten having named this genus, or, at least, failed to connect with it the *Plectropoma Huntii* of Hector of New Zealand, and consequently adopted the name *Gilbertia* of Jordan and Eigenmann, who had overlooked the previous proposition of the genus by Gill and Poey.

The facts of the case, then, are expressible in the following synonymy:—

Genus HYPOPLECTRODES.

Hypoplectrodes, Gill, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1862, p. 236 (with typonym only) (1862); Poey, Ann. New York Lyc. Nat. Hist. x. p. 45, 1871 (defined).

Gilbertia, Jordan and Eigenmann, Bull. U.S. Fish Comm. viii. p. 346 (1890).

The species of *Hypoplectrodes*, according to Mr. Boulenger's † views, are four in number, viz. :—

1. *H. semicinctus* = *Plectropoma semicinctum*, C. V. = *P. Huntii*, Hector.
South Australia, New Zealand, Chile.
2. *H. annulatus* = *Plectropoma annulatum*, Günther.
South Australia.
3. *H. nigroruber*.
South Australia.
4. *H. (?) armatus* = *Serranus armatus*, Castelnau.
Australia (Swan River).

It may be added that the name *Gilbertia* was also given in 1891 ‡ by Lord Walsingham to a genus of Pterophoroid Lepidopters.—*Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* vol. xviii. no. 1082, pp. 567, 568.

* 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York,' x. pp. 27-79.

† Vol. i. pp. 306-309.

‡ Ent. Monthly Mag. (2) ii. p. 259.